



March 12, 2007

## **H.R. 85 - Energy Technology Transfer Act**

### **Floor Situation**

H.R. 85 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Judy Biggert (R-IL) on January 4, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported as amended from the Committee on Science and Technology, by voice vote, on February 28, 2007.

H.R. 85 is expected to be considered on the floor on March 12, 2007.

*\*Note: In the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, Rep. Biggert introduced identical legislation, H.R. 6203, which passed the House of Representatives by a voice vote on September 29, 2006. The Senate received the bill, but no action was taken.*

### **Summary**

The Energy Technology Transfer Act will provide funds for the Department of Energy (DOE) to allow established community outreach networks to transfer knowledge and technology pertaining to advanced energy technologies that increase energy efficiency.

H.R. 85 amends the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58) to permit the Secretary of Energy (Secretary) to make grants to nonprofit institutions, State and local governments, cooperative extension services, or universities, to establish a geographically dispersed network of Advanced Energy Technology Transfer Centers (Center). A Center is an information hub for technology information.

This bill amends the Energy Policy Act of 2005 by outlining specific activities that can be funded by the grants, creates minimum criteria for the grants, and creates a time limitation for the grants.

These Centers will be located in areas the Secretary determines to be in the greatest need of the services a Center provides.

Persons may apply for grants through the Secretary and the application shall include, at a minimum:

- A description of the applicant's outreach program, and the geographic region it would serve, and of why the program would be capable of transferring knowledge

and information about advanced energy technologies that increase efficiency of energy use;

- A description of the activities the applicant would carry out, of the technologies that would be transferred, and of any other organizations that will help facilitate a regional approach to carrying out those activities;
- A description of how the proposed activities would be appropriate to the specific energy needs of the geographic region to be served;
- An estimate of the number and types of energy end-users expected to be reached through such activities; and
- A description of how the applicant will assess the success of the program.

The Secretary will give priority to applicants already operating or partnered with an outreach program capable of transferring knowledge and information about advanced energy efficiency methods and technologies. The bill defines advanced energy efficiency methods and technologies as “all means and technologies that promote energy efficiency and conservation, including distributed generation technologies, and life-cycle analysis of energy use.”

Pursuant to the bill, each Center shall operate a community outreach program to encourage the demonstration and commercial application of advanced energy methods and technologies. The outreach program can include developing and distributing informational materials on technologies that could use energy more efficiently and carrying out demonstrations of advanced energy methods and technologies.

The bill authorizes grants to be awarded for a period of 5 years. During the third year of the grant, each grantee is subject to a review by the Secretary to see if the funds are being used to accomplish the purposes of this bill. If the Secretary gives a positive review, the grant may be extended for an additional 3 years.

If the grantee receives the extension, during the second year of the extension (seventh year of the grant) the Secretary will make another audit of the grant. If the grantee receives a positive review, the grant may be extended for an additional 3 years, for a total of 11 years. No grant may exceed 11 years.

### **Background**

The House of Representatives passed the Energy Policy Act of 2005, H.R. 6, by a recorded vote of 249 - 183 ([Roll no. 132](#)), on April 21, 2005. The bill was signed into law on August 8, 2005 (Public Law 109-58). H.R. 6 included section 917 “Advanced Energy Efficiency Technology Transfer Centers.”

This section created advanced energy technology transfer centers that distribute information pertaining to efficient technology to end-users.

The Department of Energy and the National Labs have been developing low-cost energy technologies. Currently, there are few mechanisms for transferring these technologies into the American marketplace. The cooperative extension services and similar community outreach networks have a history of transferring knowledge to farmers and other constituencies, but outside of the agriculture sector there are few resources to focus on energy technology.

**Cost**

H.R. 85 has not been scored by the Congressional Budget Office.

*\*Note: The Congressional Budget Office did not score the identical legislation, H.R. 6203, which passed the House of Representatives in the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.*

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